

## 2nd Term for James Giacomazzi



Las Positas College Coach James Giacomazzi begins his two-year term as President of the California Community Colleges Men's Basketball Coaches Association. Out-going President Tyson Aye of Allan Hancock moves into the position as Past President, replacing Steve Ball of Napa College. Jonathan James of Cosumnes River College has been installed as Vice President.

Giacomazzi, who will begin his sixth year as the head coach at Las Positas College in the fall, has 20-plus years of coaching at the California community college basketball level. He becomes the 46th president in the history of the Association, which was established in 1957.

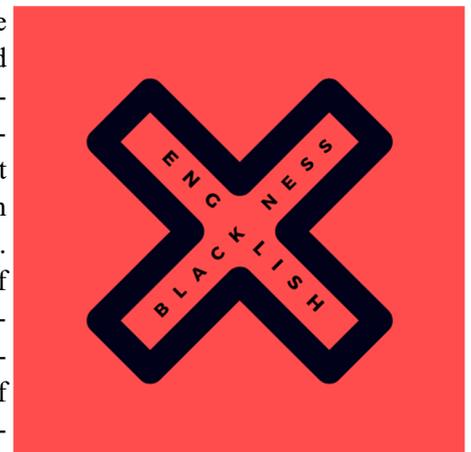
The CCCMBCA is a non-profit whose objective include fostering clean play and sportsmanship; improve the standard of play and to work toward improvement of techniques and playing conditions; maintain a membership representative of all the community colleges in the State of California; and to work closely with the California Community Colleges Athletic Association in an attempt to achieve these objectives.

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## BlacknessXEnglish

As a response to the murder of George Floyd, the LPC English Department, Umoja Students, and San Diego City College developed BlacknessXEnglish in an effort to explore the intersection of being Black and in English. From that intersection, the courses address the ways in which the field contributes to anti-Black racism. The English Department studied the notion of antiracism and linguistic justice; issued a commitment to linguistic diversity in the classrooms; centered the voices and experiences of Black students and Black instructors; and refreshed the reading lists along with questioning who and what should be in the so-called canon.



The effort was led by Kisha Quesada Turner, Salem Admassu, Michelle Gonzales, Steve Chiolis, Ebony Tyree (San Diego City College), Ty Bennett and Jacquelyn Monteiro (students of Umoja at LPC), and Megan Swanson.

# What Does it Mean to Stand with Asian Americans?

Submitted by LPC Student Isabella David



My name is Isabella David. I've been a Las Positas student since Fall 2016, I am a proud Filipino American, and I am a voting member of Dublin's Community Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

There are so many different things I could talk to you about. I could tell you about how my parents came from poverty, how they immigrated here from a third-world country that was under martial law. I could tell you about the racism I've faced growing up in Dublin, the Asian fetishization I've received, and the public disapproval I faced when I was in an interracial relationship with a white partner. I was up all night. I kept thinking to myself, "which stories should I tell, to get them to empathize?" "How can I incentivize non-Asian people, in the most palatable way, to care about Asian Americans?"

You know, I really should have just gone to sleep because in the end I realized, "that is not my responsibility." It is not my responsibility to validate that my life matters, that Asian American struggles matter.

I'm grateful that there's been a plethora of support from outside of the Asian community, but the type of support we're receiving has been compromised by three detrimental misconceptions about the racism Asian Americans face:

- The misconception that anti-Asian racism is a new phenomenon.
- The misconception that Asian Americans only face racism in the form of personal attacks.
- And the misconception that the Black Lives Matter movement and Asian American movements are mutually exclusive.

Personal attacks, and hate crimes, are not the only ways that present-day Asian Americans face racism. We continue to be mistaken as a monolith, as the affluent, obedient "model minority," and it erases the systemic racism rife in our communities.

You see Asian immigrants taking your jobs. We see Asian immigrants unable to find work because their qualifications aren't accepted here. You see Asian immigrants brought here for high-earning tech positions. We see the erasure of struggling working class immigrants who came through family reunification visas. You see Asians finding a better life in America. We see Southeast Asian refugees sitting in ICE detention centers in the country whose military intervention made them refugees in the first place. You see Asians breezing through American education. We see over 28% of Vietnamese, 34% of Laotians, and 38% of Cambodians who were unable to complete high school. You see Asians thriving in the healthcare field. We see Filipino nurses disproportionately put at the front lines of the pandemic, causing Filipinos to comprise 31% of our nurse deaths from COVID-19, despite making up only 4% of American nurses.

Asian Americans continue to be unseen victims of systemic racism, and that is why your solidarity cannot be limited to a social media post saying "STOP ASIAN HATE." Your solidarity cannot be limited to empty promises of support. If you truly want to advocate for us, you need to make an effort to recognize and address the structures that oppress us. The structures that oppress other people of color.

To stand with Asian Americans is to provide multilingual resources for first- and second-generation students and at Las Positas College, to create an Asian American Studies program, to recognize Asian holidays. To stand with Asian Americans is to give Asian students proper mental health support and accessibility resources, since many of us are the first in our families to attend college in the States, since our academic success is often the only metric our parents have to justify their sacrifices. To stand with Asian Americans is to donate to Asian American organizations: The Asian Prisoner Support Committee, API Equality Northern California, Red Canary Song, the Asian Mental Health Collective. Or read books by Asian American authors. "*The Making of Asian America*" by Erika Lee, or "*Empire of Care*" by Catherine Ceniza Choy. To stand with Asian Americans is to support Asian American businesses. There's the Ulferts Center in Dublin or the Pacific Pearl in Pleasanton. To stand with Asian Americans is to not limit yourself to social media posts, to instead recognize and address our ongoing structural oppression. To stand with Asian Americans is to step in when you see us getting harassed, to call out racism when you see it, to amplify Asian voices.

The next time someone asks you, "What does it mean to stand with Asian Americans?" Tell them, to stand with Asian Americans is to not stand idle.

## LPC Journalism Shines Again



The pandemic has not slowed the work of journalists at the college. The students in the program, that will change its name to Journalism and Media Studies (JAMS) in Fall 2021, have worked hard to ensure that student publications continue to thrive as the classes that support them meet virtually. In addition to publishing online and showcasing work in a weekly newsletter, the student journalists on The Express have created PDF versions of The Express and will launch a podcast network this month. In addition, in early 2021 Naked magazine published a timely magazine, focusing on racial justice and life during the pandemic. Finally, Havik, the LPC Journal of Arts and Literature, is currently in production. The 42nd edition of Havik, Inside Brilliance, will be published in conjunction with the college's Literary Arts Festival on May 8.

All three publications have earned accolades from prestigious journalism organizations. Express Editor-in-chief Nathan Canilao, who has worked on all three publications, has been a standout in the program this year, earning several individual awards and racking up experience as a student leader.



*Nathan Canilao, Express Editor-in-chief*

## Hawks Fly High!

The Las Positas College Forensics Team was coached this year by Jim Dobson and Natalie Kellner, with this year culmination of the Talk Hawks being one of the best speech team in the entire nation. In March 2021 at the International Forensics Association Championship Tournament, the team finished 2nd Place overall in the Community College division and 3rd Place amongst all 37 competing institution.

The Talk Hawks finished with a Gold Medal at the PHI RHO PI National Championship Tournament held in April 2021 as a team in the Wheeler Division (middle-size college). On top of that, Brennan Mock won the award for the Top Speaker in the entire country! Las Positas won this award once before in 1984.

Jim Dobson also received a service award for his 20+ years of work in the organization.



## LPC Honors

Three students from the Las Positas College Honors Transfer Program, Grey Garcia, Megan Mehta and Jonathan Cline, were selected to present their honors project research at the UCI Community College Honors Research Conference held on March 26 & 27. Megan Mehta was awarded second place out of all students who presented STEM related posters at the conference; she has presented her honors work at a total of 4 academic conferences this year.



## UCLA Welcomes LPC

In March 2021, the LPC Honors Transfer Program certified its inaugural class of UCLA TAP applicants. Through the TAP program, students who complete the LPC Honors Program are granted priority review for admission at UCLA. Based on past data, community college students who are TAP certified are more than three times as likely to be admitted to UCLA relative to general transfer applicants, making this an exciting new opportunity for students at Las Positas College.



## Administrative Services: Updates

In the last year the Reception/Information Desk has expanded its accessibility and response to students via new online/email communication and maintained stability by remaining open and utilizing social distancing measures to continue providing in-person, online, and phone support to students, faculty and staff. The Business Office has streamlined processes to accommodate new online/remote environment through new fillable PDF forms and unified email submission processes. The Business Office has also revamped its website with new forms, updated information, and step-by-step instructions to improve support to students, faculty, staff and other constituents.

## Economic Workforce Development

Due to COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders, the Adult School Referral Form was launched to connect adult school students with the appropriate service provider at LPC. The Economic Workforce Development program also secured a \$100,000 contract to launch credit offerings to a cohort of 20-25 students at the Federal Institution in Dublin which will lead to a certificate and an associate's degree in Business. The program will begin in Fall 2021. The Economic Workforce Development Strategic Plan was created as a partnership with WestEd to facilitate an economic and workforce development assessment to produce a strategic plan guiding LPC's education, workforce, and economic planning goals.

## LPC Foundation's Year in Review

Since Fall 2020, the LPC Foundation has awarded six students 2Gen Scholarships totaling over \$40,000. This fund covers fees for eligible Las Positas College students who have children enrolled in the college's Child Development Center. The 2Gen Scholarships have made over \$300,000 in scholarships available to students who are able to research and apply remotely and distributed over \$20,000 to the campus through the Foundation's grant program. These unrestricted funds are made available to meet the most critical needs not covered by state or institutional resources.

In February, the LPC Foundation hosted its inaugural LPC Alumni Association webinar with over 80 alumni tuned in to hear our panel of experts talk about how to address issues of social justice and equity in the workplace from the standpoint of entry, mid-level and senior/executive level employees.

Since March 2020, the LPC Foundation has raised over \$11,000 in support of COVID-19 related student and campus needs. The areas supported include: Wireless Hotspots/1 year of internet service for students, sewing machines for Costume Design Students, and Microphones & Headphones for choral student distance learning.

During the spring semester, the LPC Foundation successfully partnered with the College President's Office on the President's Speaker Series. This year focused on critical issues related to equity, social justice and anti-racism.

### News in Brief

**LPC Family/Parent Information Night:** LPC will be conducting another information night for Parents and Families on April 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Please register in advance [HERE](#).

**Commencement Activities for the Class of 2020 and 2021:**

Las Positas College's 30th and 31st Annual Commencement Ceremonies will be held virtually on May 28, 2021. "Although in-person commencement ceremonies are canceled, Las Positas Col-

lege graduates deserve to be honored and celebrated," said Dr. Dyrell Foster, LPC President. "Our students have shown tremendous determination to persevere through these uncertain times to achieve their goals. They have my deepest respect and admiration for staying true to their values and for their commitment to achieve success." For more information please visit the [Commencement Ceremony Page](#).



Las Positas Connection is published by the Office of the President.  
Issues are posted online at [laspositascollege.edu/president](http://laspositascollege.edu/president). Angelica Cazarez, Editor.

3000 Campus Hill Drive | Livermore CA 94551-7623 | PH 925.424.1000 | [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu)  
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